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The situation in the Middle East

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Seventy-second year

Identical letters dated 13 January 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

After midnight on 13 January 2017, Israel committed another insidious attack on the Syrian Arab Republic. This was one in a long series of Israeli attacks that have taken place since the beginning of the terrorist war on Syria's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and which were planned in the corridors of Israeli, French, British and American intelligence services and those of their clients in Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Qatar and other countries that wish to extend their control and hegemony over Syria and the region.

Against this background, Israeli aircraft launched a large number of rockets from north of Lake Tiberias that struck the area surrounding the Mazzah airport, causing a fire. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates has described in correspondence to the Security Council how previous Israeli land and air attacks killed large numbers of innocent civilians, including women, children and the sick, and destroyed infrastructure of various types. Such attacks would not have happened but for the direct support and green light given by the outgoing United States administration and French and British leaders.

All these Israeli attacks against Syria took place at the same time that the armed terrorist groups, whether in the north, the centre or the south of Syria, were being routed. The recent aggression followed the overwhelming defeat of the terrorist Nusrah Front and its allies in eastern Aleppo and the successes that led the terrorists to withdraw from the areas around Damascus. In particular, reconciliation processes took place in Khan al-Shih and in Qunaytirah, Dar'a and elsewhere, crushing the dreams of Israel and its Western allies and their Wahhabi Saudi and Qatari clients. The continued Israeli attacks across the line of separation of forces in Golan, which have been corroborated in the report of the Secretary-General and by the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, are part of a series of Israeli crimes that contravene its obligations pursuant to the separation of forces

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agreement. Those reports confirm that Israel has provided its terrorist allies, particularly the Nusrah Front, with all types of Israeli weapons, and has provided medical treatment to more than 1,500 injured members of terrorist organizations at Israeli hospitals — as has been admitted by Israeli leaders — before sending them back to Syria to continue their dirty terrorist war against innocent Syrian civilians. Israel's desperate and open support for terrorist organizations makes it a partner in killing Syrians and destroying their achievements, demonstrating that terrorism and Israel are two sides of the same coin.

The revelation of Israel's role in the terrorist war on Syria and its eagerness to launch terrorist attacks on Syria require the international community, the Secretariat and the Security Council to take immediate action in order to sanction the Israeli aggressor and prevent it from repeating such terrorist attacks, which have catastrophic effects. Not only do they undermine Syrian sovereignty and pose a persistent challenge to Security Council and General Assembly resolutions that call on Israel to withdraw from Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese territory and halt settlement activity on occupied Syrian and Palestinian land; they also amount to direct support, in violation of all Security Council resolutions, for terrorist organizations in Syria that appear on the Security Council list.

Syria once again warns Israel to halt its repeated attacks on Syrian sovereignty, which will have serious consequences. It will not desist from its obligation to implement the counter-terrorism resolutions of the Security Council, including resolution 2253 (2015). Syria also reiterates that it will not spare any effort toward the peaceful resolution of the Syrian crisis.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Minister Counsellor
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